Manitoba Firearm Accidents Report

Hunting and Non-Hunting 1985

Hunter and Firearm Safety Program

Manitoba
Natural Resources

86-03463/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please contact us at 1495 St. James Street, or phone 945-6644.

SUMMARY

In this summary, accidents are recorded in four categories;

1) Accidents involving persons in pursuit of game during an open season.
2) Accidents involving Treaty Indians in pursuit of game.
3) Accidents involving persons in pursuit of non-game species and illegal hunting. (Rabbits and rodents are considered as non-game species).
4) Non-hunting accidents.

In previous years, accidents involving Treaty Indians were not recorded in the annual accident summary. This year, for the first time, all firearm accidents occurring in non-hunting and hunting related accidents are recorded. These additions will increase the number of firearm accidents this year as compared to last year. Because of these additions, no comparison will be made with last year's accident totals. Comparisons will be made in the 1986 annual accident summary.

A new accident category is included in this summary: Accidents involving Treaty Indians in pursuit of game. As in previous years, Treaty Indians don't require a licence to hunt and in many cases, they may hunt 12 months of the year under their treaty rights. These accidents will be recorded separately from those involving licenced hunters. Treaty non-hunting accidents are included in the non-hunting accidents category.

During the 1985 calendar year, 26 persons suffered injuries in hunting related and non-hunting firearm accidents. Eleven of these accidents were self-inflicted. One of the 26 was fatal and occurred during a licenced open season. The victim was wearing a complete suit of hunter orange but was out of sight of the shooter.

In 12 of the 26 accidents, the shooter was hunting some type of bird or animal. In these 12 accidents, 7 involved a licenced hunter in pursuit of game during an open season, one was hunting small game and 4 involved Treaty Indians.

The average age of shooters causing accidents in 1985 was 24.4 years.

19 of the 26 accidents occurred at a distance of less than 10 yards.

2,977 students successfully completed the Manitoba Hunter Safety course during the 1985 calendar year. Manitoba Volunteer Instructors have now trained 97,690 students since the program began in 1964.

Four graduates of a Hunter Safety Program were involved in the 26 accidents recorded in 1985. 3 of the 4 were in pursuit of game during a licenced open season and one was non-hunting related.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

	1985
Victim out of sight of shooter.	5
Victim moved into line of fire.	1
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.	0
Victim mistaken for game.	0
Shooter stumbled and fell.	0
Using firearm as club.	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object.	3
Loaded firearm in vehicle.	4
Firearm fell from insecure rest.	3
"Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded".	4
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm.	0
Loading.	1
Unloading.	1
Defective firearm.	2
Loaded firearm in the home.	2
Accidental discharge.	0
Ricochet.	0
Unknown.	0
	26

SYNOPSIS OF 1985 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

	1985
Total Number of Accidents	26
Fatal	1
Non-Fatal	25
Hunting Legally During Regular Season	7
Fatal	1
Non-Fatal	6
Treaty Indian Hunting	4
Fatal	0
Non-Fatal	4
Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegally Hunting	1
Fatal	0
Non-Fatal	1
Non-Hunting Accidents	13
Fatal in the home	0
Fatal in a vehicle	0
Fatal outside home	0
Non-Fatal in the home	5
Non-Fatal in a vehicle	1
Non-Fatal outside the home	7
Shooter Unknown	1
Fatal	0
Non-Fatal	1
Accidents Involving Shooter 18 years and under	11
All Types of Hunting	4
Fatal	0
Non-Fatal	4
Non-Hunting	7
Fatal	0
Non-Fatal	7

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	1985
.22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	11
Fatal	0
Non-Fatal	11
Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	5
Fatal	1
Non-Fatal	4
Shotgun	7
Fatal	0
Non-Fatal	7
Hand Gun	1
Fatal	0
Non-Fatal	1
Pellet Gun	1
Fatal	0
Non-Fatal	1
Unknown	1
Fatal	0
Non-Fatal	1

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	1985
0 to 10 yards	19
10 to 50 yards	4
50 to 100 yards	1
over 100 yards	1
Distance Unknown	1

OCCURRENCES

	1985
Time of Day	
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	1
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	0
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	2 *
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	2
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	1
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	9
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	9
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	2
Unknown	0
By Day	
Sunday	5
Monday	3 *
Tuesday	4
Wednesday	3
Thursday	6
Friday	2
Saturday	3
By Month	
January	1
February	1
March	0
April	1
May	1
June	2
July	0
August	3
September	5
October	7
November	3 *
December	2

* Indicates one fatal

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL	SELF-INFLICTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	CIRCUMSTANCES
Tuesday Jan 1 1:30 am	30	no	yes	22 cal.	0-10 yds	non-hunting	Accident occurred in the shooter's home. Shooter reached for some firewood in the darkened room and a firearm which was leaning against a wall fell to the floor and discharged. The bullet hit the shooter in the shoulder.
Sunday Feb 10 6:30 pm	19	no	yes	22 cal.	0-10 yds	non-hunting	The shooter was placing his 22 cal. rifle on a gun rack in his garage. The rifle discharged and the bullet struck the shooter in the stomach area.
Friday April 19 8:00 pm	12	no	yes	22 cal.	0-10 yds	non-hunting	The shooter took a 22 cal. rifle from his parents' home and took it outside to show his friends. While loading the rifle it discharged and the bullet went through his toe. He had never handled a firearm before.
Tuesday May 28 11:00 am	18	no	yes	shotgun	0-10 yds	non-hunting	The shooter discharged the firearm and the muzzle end of the barrel flew apart injuring his left hand. Someone had previously drilled several holes in the barrel to reduce the recoil.
Thursday June 6 4:00 pm	44	no	yes	.357 handgun	0-10 yds	non-hunting	The shooter was target practicing at a Pistol Club. The handgun blew up into the shooter's face sending metal fragments into both eyes. The right eye received corneal scratches.
Sunday June 30 8:00 pm	15	no	no	22 cal.	0-10 yds	non-hunting	The shooter was setting down a 22 cal. rifle with no trigger guard on it. The firearm discharged and the bullet struck the victim in the head.
Monday July 1 9:30 pm	13	no	no	22 cal.	0-10 yds	sharptail grouse	The shooter was picking up his rifle when it discharged. The bullet struck the victim in the right arm.
Sunday August 4 6:45 pm	9	no	no	22 cal.	0-10 yds	non-hunting	The shooter was in the back of a van playing with a loaded firearm. He discharged the firearm and the bullet passed through a cabinet door and the van seat lodging into the ribs of the 30 year old victim.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL	SELF-INFLICTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	CIRCUMSTANCES
Saturday August 7 6:30 pm	11	no	no	22 cal.	0-10 yds	Rooster	The shooter was attempting to shoot a barnyard rooster inside a barn. The shot he fired exited through the wall striking the 7 year old victim in his upper right thigh.
Friday August 30 7:00 pm	25	no	no	shotgun	10-50 yds	non-hunting	The victim was out of sight of the shooter in some tall grass. When the shooter discharged his shotgun in the victim's direction the victim was struck by pellets to his right shoulder and face.
Thursday Sept 12 6:00 pm	35	no	yes	shotgun	10-50 yds	Ducks	The shooter knocked down a duck approximately 40 yards from where he shot. He pumped in a live cartridge into the chamber and leaned the shotgun against some bullrushes and proceeded to retrieve the duck. While picking up the duck he was struck by 6 pellets to the left side of his body. His firearm which was 40 yards away had fallen over and discharged.
Sunday Sept 15 4:00 pm	8	no	no	.177 rifle	10-50 yds	non-hunting	The shooter was walking through an open field when he accidently discharged his pellet gun. The 9 year old victim was struck on the side of his face by the pellet.
Saturday Sept 21 3:45 pm	44	no	no	shotgun	0-10 yds	Ducks	A father and his 2 sons were duck hunting from a boat. The boat hit a a submerged rock and the father's shotgun fell from the seat and discharged. Both sons were struck by pellets in their legs and buttocks area.
Monday Sept 23 7:00 pm	27	no	no	shotgun	0-10 yds	Ducks	The shooter was changing his shotgun from one hand to the other when the hammer caught on his sleeve. The shotgun discharged and the victim was struck with a pellet in his ankle.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL	SELF-INFLICTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	CIRCUMSTANCES
Thursday Oct 3 3:00 pm	71	no	yes	303 cal.	0-10 yds	Moose	The victim had his rifle leaning against a grub box while unloading his boat. He heard a moose calling and as he stood up the rifle fell over and discharged. The bullet struck the victim in the calf of his leg.
Thursday Oct 3 5:00 pm	15	no	no	22 cal.	0-10 yds	Muskrats	The shooter and the victim had been sniffing gas and were horseplaying while shooting muskrats. The victim was pushed and he fell into the line of fire and the bullet struck him in the arm and back.
Saturday Oct 12 8:10 am	42	no	yes	shotgun	0-10 yds	Geese	The shooter grabbed his shotgun by the muzzle and it discharged injuring his right hand.
Sunday Oct 20 1:00 pm	28	no	no	22 cal.	100 yds or more	non-hunting	The shooter and 3 of his friends were drinking beer and target practicing outside of his home. Five shots went through some bush and hit the neighbors house. One of the shots went through the wall and struck the female resident in the shoulder.
Thursday Oct 24 5:00 pm	10	no	no	30-30 cal.	0-10 yds	Deer	The victim was carrying a loaded firearm with the action open in his truck. His 10 year old son not knowing it was loaded closed the action and pulled the trigger. The victim was struck in the lower abdomen.
Tuesday Oct 29 7:30 pm	unknown	no	no	unknown	unknown	unknown	The victim was struck by a bullet in the left foot. He wasn't hunting at the time.
Wednesday Oct 30 5:00 pm	37	no	yes	shotgun	0-10 yds	Geese	The victim was in a blind with his dog. The dog moved and knocked over the victim's shotgun. The firearm discharged and several pellets struck the victim in the foot.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER	FATAL	SELF-INFLICTED	FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	CIRCUMSTANCES
Monday Nov 11 7:50 am	20	yes	no	308 cal.	50-100 yds	Deer	The shooter fired at what he thought was a deer and struck the victim in the chest. The victim who was his hunting partner was wearing a complete suit of blaze orange but was out of sight of the shooter.
Tuesday Nov 19 10:45 pm	17	no	no	30-30 cal.	10-50 yds	non-hunting	The shooter was removing a rifle from a gun case. The hammer was cocked and while he was attempting to release it, the hammer slipped and discharged the rifle. The bullet struck the victim in the left shoulder and exited on right side of his neck.
Wednesday Nov 20 9:15 am	29	no	yes	243 cal.	0-10 yds	Deer	The victim was getting out of his vehicle upon seeing 2 deer in a field. While removing his rifle from the vehicle it struck the steering wheel and discharged. The victim was hit in the upper portion of his right leg.
Sunday Dec 1 3:00 pm	15	no	no	22 cal.	10-50 yds	non-hunting	The shooter who was on a lake was jumping up and snap shooting towards the shoreline. The victim on a A.T.C. moved into the line of fire and was struck in the lower abdomen by the bullet.
Wednesday Dec 25 4:00 pm	17	no	yes	22 cal. single shot	0-10 yds	non-hunting	The shooter was removing a rifle from his bed and placing it on another bed in the room. The firearm discharged and the bullet went through his upper arm. He had been the last one to use the rifle before the accident.